

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the current application are respectfully requested.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1 - 31 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art ("APAA" - namely the "Background" section of the specification) and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0249683 Demarcken et al., ("Demarcken"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 provide an arrangement that overcomes problems associated with conventional systems, such as those described in the background of the specification, by obviating the need for online checks (i.e., availability checks when the computing device is connected to a computer network to a back-end system, etc.). There is no suggestion in the background of the application that it was known to initiate queries while the PDA or laptop computer of an individual in a remote location while such a computing device was "offline". In fact, the specification only refers to an "online check" (see, inter alia, specification par. 3) and that such systems "tether the sales person to his laptop and require the laptop to be online" (see, inter alia, specification par. 5). Therefore, it follows that the specification also fails to disclose connecting to the principal computing platform **after** the creation of the availability query (emphasis added).

Demarcken was cited as teaching creating an availability query prior to the auxiliary computing platform being connected to the principle database. First, it is respectfully noted that the term principle database is not recited in the claims. Second, it is respectfully submitted that Demarcken simply relates to an arrangement in which it is first determined whether there is a

cached query result for a particular query rather than initiating a new query (see, inter alia, Demarcken par. 25). Such an arrangement was devised in order to avoid long query times associated with low-fare-searches for airline travel (see, inter alia, Demarcken pars. 2-3). The current subject matter relates to allow remote salespersons to continually engage a customer regarding sales without having to be online. Therefore, Demarcken fails to disclose or otherwise suggest an availability query being created while the auxiliary computing platform is disconnected from the principal computing platform, and connecting to the principal computing platform after the creation of the availability query. Demarcken, among other things, simply fails to disclose an offline arrangement as recited in the claims.

Moreover, as Demarcken relates to low-fare-search queries in which results can take long periods of time, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine the specification with Demarcken to result in the recited subject matter, nor would the skilled artisan have been taught the recited subject matter even if such references were combined.

Accordingly, claims 1, 5, and 9 and their respective dependent claims should be allowable. Moreover, as claims 13, 17, and 21 recite similar subject matter relating to a principal computing platform and an auxiliary computing platform, these claims as well as their dependent claims should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

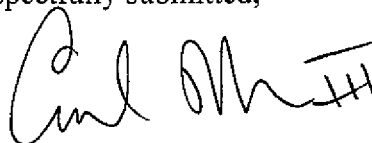
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending

claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-283.

Respectfully submitted,



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